

House Bill 343 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Borders of the 175<sup>th</sup>, Black of the 174<sup>th</sup>, Shaw of the 176<sup>th</sup>, and Houston of the 170<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Article 3 of Chapter 3 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to other state symbols, so as to designate the Valdosta State University's Peach State  
3 Summer Theatre as Georgia's Official Musical Theatre; to repeal conflicting laws; and for  
4 other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 WHEREAS, the partnership between Valdosta State University and the Jekyll Island  
8 Authority to produce the Jekyll Island Musical Theatre has been dissolved and Valdosta State  
9 University has moved its summer theatre program to the Valdosta State University campus  
10 as the Peach State Summer Theatre; and

11 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia has recognized the importance of tourism to the economic  
12 and cultural well-being of its people through the establishment of the Department of  
13 Economic Development; and

14 WHEREAS, the enhancement of tourist attractions in Georgia, which would encourage  
15 tourists to extend their stay in Georgia, benefits the state; and

16 WHEREAS, many groups in the state are working to improve the quality of artistic and  
17 recreational experiences for Georgia residents and for out-of-state tourists as well; and

18 WHEREAS, the existence of musical theatre is a vital component of the artistic and cultural  
19 life of Georgia; and Georgia is committed to encourage and support artists' activities of the  
20 highest quality for the enjoyment and enrichment of the citizens; and

1 WHEREAS, Valdosta State University, a unit of the University System of Georgia, has  
2 received a Regents' Award for Excellence in the Theatre and has a 15 year history of  
3 producing the Jekyll Island Musical Theatre Festival, a professional repertory musical theatre  
4 company; and

5 WHEREAS, Valdosta State University is moving its summer theatre to Valdosta, Georgia,  
6 and will continue to present musical theatre of outstanding artistry to residents and tourists;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, that summer theatre is named the Peach State Summer Theatre in celebration  
9 of the State of Georgia.

## 10 SECTION 2.

11 Article 3 of Chapter 3 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to other  
12 state symbols, is amended by striking in its entirety Code Section 50-3-69, relating to the  
13 official musical theatre, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

14 "50-3-69.

15 (a) The '~~Jekyll Island Musical~~ Peach State Summer Theatre Festival' is designated as the  
16 official musical theatre of the State of Georgia.

17 (b) The Department of Economic Development and other public agencies and leaders in  
18 the tourism industry are encouraged to work together to maximize advertising programs  
19 which permit citizens of other states and nations to learn of the ~~Jekyll Island Musical~~ Peach  
20 State Summer Theatre Festival and to visit the State of Georgia for tourism purposes."

## 21 SECTION 3.

22 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.